



PLAY IS OFTEN TALKED ABOUT AS IF IT WERE A RELIEF FROM SERIOUS LEARNING.

BUT FOR CHILDREN

PLAY IS SERIOUS LEARNING.

PLAY IS REALLY THE WORK OF CHILDHOOD.

David Popen



Play is serious business for children!

Young children are always on the go. Whether it's running, climbing, dressing up, taking things apart or putting them back together again, they seldom sit still. While this sometimes chaotic activity may seem like "just play," it's anything but. The reality is there's much more happening beneath the surface.

What they're doing	What they're learning
Puzzles	Problem solving, concentration
Playing with blocks	Shapes, recognizing differences, logic
Playing dress up	Self expression, creativity, imagination
Running, jumping, climbing	How the body works, strength and flexibility
Games with friends	Social skills, taking turns and sharing
Singing and dancing	Listening, rhythm and coordination
Sand and water play	Solids, liquids, measurement

Play helps stimulate children's intellectual growth. By engaging in different kinds of play, children learn how to reason, hypothesize interact with one another. DSBN Kindergarten programs pair that with academic learning, such as numbers and letters, to help children build a powerful foundation for a successful school career. Best of all? They'll have fun doing it!



Visit us anytime between
10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
on Thursday, January 28

www.dsn.org/kindergarten



REGISTER

Come prepared to play!

DSBN Kindergarten classes are made for active, curious learners. By visiting a Kindergarten Open House, your child will be able to experience everything our schools have to offer to stimulate the mind and create a love of learning and exploration.

As parents, you'll have an opportunity to meet the staff and see how they create an environment where your children will feel safe, supported and inspired to seek answers to all their important questions.

How will I know if my child is ready for Kindergarten?

You'll know I'm ready for school when...

- I'm curious about the world and how it works
- I play well with others
- I start to show my independence
- I know how to share and take turns

Going to school for the first time is a big step. Our schools will be there to help your child make a successful transition, but you can also be confident that they'll be happy and well prepared for their new adventure when they display certain traits.

Parents and guardians have a huge role to play in a child's education. In fact, you are your child's first teacher! Here are some simple things you can do to help your children get ready for that exciting

You can help me get ready for school by...

- Reading with me regularly
- Showing me how math is a regular part of our world. (Let me count out silverware, spare change etc.)
- Letting me dress on my own
- Teaching me to share and play with others
- Encouraging me to ask lots of questions and be curious about the world around me

How/when should my child have to be to register for Kindergarten?
If your child was born in 2012, they can start Kindergarten in September 2016.

How do I register?
Start by downloading your child's registration form.

Visit us online at:
www.dsbn.org/schools/openhouse
and click this button:



Meeting with Kindergarten Open House when you attend the Kindergarten Open House at your local DSBN school. There will also be forms available at the Open House.

To complete registration, you will need your child's:

- Birth Certificate, Birth Registration or Baptismal Certificate
- Immunization Certificate
- Provincial Health Card
- Proof of address

What if I can't attend the Open House?

No problem! Call your local DSBN elementary school to register and arrange a personal tour.

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Thursday, January 14, 2016

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John F. HANCOCK/CITY OF FORT ERIE

The Crystal Beach Business Improvement Association hosted the seventh annual Polar Bear Dip and Chili Cook-Off Challenge Saturday at the Bertie Boating Club. See page 2 for the story.

PERFORMANCE PLUS
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Jeff Daniels, a long time resident of Fort Erie and past Vice President of Performance Plus, with Greg and Jason at the wheel, have been with JAA along with his 20+ years of automotive expertise is excited to introduce you to Performance Plus Car Care Centre, our new full service maintenance and repair facility located at 405 Central Avenue in Fort Erie. Our mission is to deliver you the best maintenance and repair while ensuring high quality services.

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Taking the plunge, polar bear style

SARAH FERGUSON
for the Times

Saturday was the perfect day for a swim in the lake. At a balmy 4°C, the temperature was much warmer than at last year's Polar Bear Dip and Chili Cook-Off at the Beattie Boating Club on Crystal Beach. If recent volunteers didn't need to break up the ice, before swimmers willingly ran down the boat ramp into the icy cold water of Lake Erie.

While some might think it's insane to don a bathing suit and plunge into the lake in the winter, more than 75 people who did just that on Saturday feel differently about it.

Swimmers have a variety of reasons for deciding to participate in the event. For some, it's a challenge. For others, it's a good story to tell. For some people, it's another item to cross off the bucket list.

When asked why they had decided to throw caution to the wind and make the icy plunge, most participants gave the same answer: it's fun.

"I wish there was (a dip) every week," said Tammy Fraking of Niagara Falls.

Fraking, who dressed up as a lighthouse, said Saturday was her seventh time taking part in a Polar Bear Dip.

"I did the dip in Chippewa last week. It's a lot of fun. The costume thing is a recent thing though."

She said running into the water isn't so bad.

"It doesn't really hurt, except your toes get really cold."

Fraking began participating in various Polar Bear Dips with her husband, Sandy. She consid-



Tammy Fraking dressed as a lighthouse for the annual event.

ered quitting when her husband passed away last year but she changed her mind.

"But then I thought about it and I think he would have wanted me to keep going," Fraking said. "I think he'd be embarrassed by the costume though. He'd be in the corner with his cousin laughing at me if he was here."

BroAnna Gustafson par-

ticipated in her first Polar Bear dip in Chippewa last week and couldn't wait to try it again Saturday.

"It's a lot of fun," when she was asked why she wanted to participate in another Polar Bear Dip.

"I think it's fun because you meet new people when you're standing there and waiting to go in."

Fort Erie's Rudy Search was one of the first-time

dippers on Saturday. "I think it'll be fun," she said. "We'll wait and see how it goes."

Nine-year-old Quintin Wilcox and 11-year-old Paula Schwartz were some of the youngest participants.

"My mom told me about it and I got really excited about it," Hicks said.

Schwartz said she knew it was going to be cold, but

she predicted it "would be a lot of fun."

Ward 2 Councillor Stephen Passero hasn't missed a single Polar Bear Dip in Crystal Beach.

"It's a fun event. You get hooked," Passero said.

"I think it's the camaraderie, it's running with people you haven't seen since last year. You have people who have done it every year like I have and

you have people who it's their first time. I think the best part for me is seeing the expression on the faces of people who are doing it for the first time."

The annual event is hosted by the Crystal Beach Business Improvement Association and the proceeds raised from it support community projects.

sarah.ferguson@times.ca

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STREET LIGHTS CHANGING TO LED

The Town of Fort Erie will be replacing the existing street lights with a substantially more energy efficient Light Emitting Diode (LED) street lights. In addition to consuming much less energy, LEDs produce a cleaner, whiter light that improves visual acuity and community safety. The beams of LEDs are also more directed than traditional street lights to light only the roadway, which helps reduce light pollution.

The Town's contractor, Dundas Power Line Ltd., plans to start installing the new LED lights January 18, 2016. Work will begin in the Crystal Beach area and progress across the rest of the Town. Standard cobra head lights will be changed town wide first, followed by the decorative lights. There are approximately 3265 lights to be changed in all. It is anticipated that the entire Town street lighting system will be switched over by April 1, 2016.

PROJECT CONTACTS

Contractor: Dundas Power Line Ltd.
13564 Hwy #43
Chesterville, ON
Phone: 1-800-666-4165
Project Contact: Tim McKay
tim@dundaspowerline.com

**Construction Supervisor
(Town of Fort Erie)** Nicholas Chevalier, A.Sc.T
nchevalier@town.forterie.on.ca
905-871-1600, Ext. 2407

**Project Manager:
(Town of Fort Erie)** Robert D. Judd, P. Eng
905-871-1600, Ext. 2412
rjudd@town.forterie.on.ca

Please contact the Town's Project Manager should you have any additional questions or require further clarification.

Please contact the Town's Construction Supervisor should you have any concerns with the Project Contractor's actions or activities.

Thank you for your patience and co-operation.

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT – 2016

Competition No. 52-2015

The Corporation is now accepting applications for student employment opportunities in the **summer of 2016**. You must be attending a post-secondary institution. **Returning students MUST apply.** For more information and to apply, visit <http://www.town.forterie.ca/>, go to Government, then Employment, click on Summer Student and complete the on-line application. The deadline for receiving applications is **5:00 p.m. Friday, January 22, 2016**. We will conduct interviews in February 2016.

Employment Opportunity

Utility Employee – Roads (Temporary to April 2016)
(Competition No. 01-2016)

You will perform physical labour, operate tools and equipment in all weather conditions in support of road and drainage services, according to adopted and regulated operational, maintenance and repair standards. You must have an Ontario Secondary School Diploma or equivalent and a valid DZ driver's licence. Want to know more? Visit www.town.forterie.on.ca click on Government, then Employment. The Town of Fort Erie is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation is available to candidates upon request. The deadline for receiving applications is NOON, Friday, January 15, 2016.

Comment

POSTMEDIA

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The
Fort Erie Times

Peter Connors regional editor
Sarah Ferguson editor

Point of View

Niagara is showing compassion for Syrian refugees

As Syrian refugees wait in overcrowded camps, hoping to be accepted as new residents of countries where they can look forward to a life of safety and security, there are Canadians who continue to debate the wisdom of welcoming them.

Thankfully, the mood seems to have shifted. There is less debate of any possible (although extremely unlikely) threat to Canadian security and much more conversation about how to make these displaced people, fleeing their war-torn homelands in fear for their lives, feel comfortable and welcome in what will be a strange land.

Many groups, church congregations and individuals have opened their hearts and wallets to sponsor refugees, and many who are not directly involved in sponsorship programs have also shown their kindness and compassion by offering help, either

through generous financial donations, or with some of the practical necessities of life, such as furniture.

Donations of time will also be greatly appreciated, especially if it involves driving people who will need to get to language lessons and job training programs.

Jobs will be key, of course, but for many, English lessons will be a first priority.

In Fort Erie, we have a number of churches and organizations sponsoring families, and other municipalities are showing similar displays of humanitarianism.

Syrians who leave their homes are not, like the many immigrants who choose Canada, looking for a better way of life. They aren't waiting to be accepted to Canada because they want better jobs, higher incomes, a better standard of living. They are fleeing violence from a civil war that threatens

their very existence. They are choosing life for their children.

They face extreme uncertainty in their future, as they wait and hope for shelter, a safe environment, warmth, food, and employment. These Canada can offer, with the help of those already fortunate to live in this country.

Congratulations to the churches in town, to all organizations and individuals who are reaching out to help in whatever capacity they are able. To those who have not yet thought about contributing, try for one awful moment to imagine how it would feel to be unable to protect your loved ones, to be powerless to supply even the most basic of necessities of life, and open your hearts to those who, through no fault of their own, find themselves in such a desperate circumstance. But for the lack of where we were born, it could just as easily be any one of us.

Do you remember?



As of yet, no one has called in to identify our young dancer with the smooth moves from last week's photo. We did hear from Cheryl Cox who told us the name of the last little boy seated on the floor: far right. This was our school Gordon Hastings. Thanks to Cheryl, all of those children are now known to us. The word "hospital" is written on the back of this week's unstaffed photo. If you think you know either of these two people, please call the Fort Erie Historical Museum at 905-864-5322 or send us an e-mail at museum@forterie.ca.

Comment

Discover movies for all ages at the library

There are some terrific movies for all ages coming up at the Fort Erie Public Library.

He Named Me Malala will be shown at the Crystal Ridge branch on Tuesday, Jan. 19 evening at 7 p.m., and on Thursday, Jan. 21 at the Centennial branch at 6:50 p.m. This documentary is an examination of the events leading up to the Taliban's attack on Pakistani schoolgirl, Malala Yousafzai, for speaking out on girls' education followed by the aftermath, including her speech to the United Nations. For more information on Nobel Prize



winner Malala Yousafzai, read I am Malala: the girl who stood up for education and was shot by the Taliban, available in the library collection. Two weeks in a row, the Centennial branch will be screening new movies for kids on Saturday afternoons. Shaun the Sheep is the lead character in a popular children's show, in

which his thinking and acting like a person in a hurry usually get him into trouble. Shaun the Sheep involves a day off for Shaun, and a little more action than he's experienced for a mix up with the farmer, a caravan and a very strong bull head them all flock to return every one safely to the green grass of home. Shaun the Sheep: the Movie will play this Saturday, Jan. 16 starting at 2:30 p.m. The Penguins created by Charles Schulz has been entertaining people and

triggering heartstrings for generations now, and they star in their own animated comedy adventure, The Penguins of Madagascar, on Jan. 25, also at 2:30 p.m. The Martian, based on the bestselling book by Andy Weir, is a perfect blend of science fiction and adventure with comic overtones. Voters for the Golden Globe award must agree, as Matt Damon was for Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy, and The Martian was for Best Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy.

The book is available in the library collection, and the movie will play at the Crystal Ridge branch at 2 p.m. on Jan. 26, and on Jan. 28 at 6:00 p.m. at the Centennial branch. In this story, Astronaut Mark Watney is presumed dead after a fierce storm during a manned mission to Mars, and left behind by his crew. But Watney has survived and finds himself stranded alone on the hostile planet. With only meager supplies, he must draw upon his ingenuity, wit and spirit to subsist and find a way to signal to Earth that he is alive. Both the

book and the film are well-made, exciting and a lot of fun. Please note that the movie runs 144 minutes.

There is still time to register for the Spelling Bee, to be held at the Centennial branch of the library on Wednesday evening, Jan. 27, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Students in Grades 1 through 8 and homeschoolers, too, are invited to sign up. Call during library hours to sign up. More info are available online, at all area schools, or at any library branch.

Andy Weirback is the community services coordinator at the Fort Erie Public Library.

Letters to the Editor

CHARITY GRATEFUL FOR SUPPORT

We would like to express our gratitude to the community for being there for us and our families in need this holiday season.

You helped us with assisting 133 families and their children. We were able to provide each family with hampers filled to the brim with a turkey, loaf of bread, at least 3 boxes of stuffing, oranges, potatoes, carrots, egg nog, peas, corn, apple juice, gravy, and so much more. Each family received many gifts which they personally got to shop for and stockings completely filled.

We also provided families with vouchers for our store, and with three vouchers we distributed a total of \$1111 worth of clothing, shoes, hats, mittens and boots to the children and their parents.

We can not believe how successful Christmas 2015 was, and we look forward to helping those in need

next Christmas.

Please do not forget, we provide Easter Assistance as well, so please keep us in mind this Easter.

Thank You and Happy New Year!

MUNDY LITTLE

THANKFUL FOR A GOOD FOOTBALL SEASON

I started volunteering football coaching in 1981, right out of University, at Fort Erie Secondary School, thanks to Ken Mason, the head coach at the time.

I met Colin Nigh during this time as he was a FESS player, although an RCMP student.

Long before the 2015 season started, I decided that it would be my last year of coaching, win, lose or draw. I just wanted to keep a little "Colbie" in the program, and do every thing within my power to keep the memory of his successes here in Ridgeway.

The miracle season of 2014 seemed impossible to exceed, but we had 20 returning senior players

and the night started happening again. Mason awarded us with the "Buckled Award and rode, and To-Cat-ward. And jerseys. More kids became interested.

A core group of seniors, with A. J. Stewart and Jason Aguilera leading the way, recruited other seniors who had not played football in 2014, but were interested because of the successful 2014 season.

We met as a group twice weekly throughout the season to train and get faster. A. J. Stewart, Tanner Schmidt, Liam Jewell, Adam Taglia, Nick and Cade Grigor, Liam Allcroft, Adam Lohacek, Kolton Hartman. More and more kids started coming out in the heat of the summer. Voluntarily.

Dave Sauer and John Swenigas of the Fort Erie Longhorns joked the coaching staff, which attracted a lot of interest from Longhorn players and parents. As a result, recruiting for the new junior team went through the roof.

Coach Lucien Gerthman

joined the senior coaching staff and also brought many top senior FESS players to the team: Elijah Robinson, Robert Kliven, Liam Jewell, Bailey McMillan.

Soudini, Munson Young, Tanner Smith, Rachael Duggan, Rudolph Hickling.

There were more than 80 players at practice on the first day of practice in September.

Now senior athletes from RCMP who had never played football before, decided to join the quest, incredible athletes in other sports but first-time footballers: Aaron Scenen, Solomon Jensen, Bryce Mitchell, Matt Krieger, too many to remember.

From the very first day of practice everyone could tell that this was a special group of committed young men, who had all found together in a common cause. There was no doubt about what we were out there for: it was a courageous confidence.

After I became head coach, I asked my high

school coach, Pat Dushak for secret advice. He told me "Surround yourself with the best group of coaches you can find."

He said "Tap in to the best football system as a resource."

Done. Thank you Dave and John.

He said "Have a core group of committed excellent athletes."

Finally, he said "Make every player feel that he is an important cog in the machine of success, whether he is on the field or not." I hope this was accomplished.

To all of the coaches and players from the 2015 Donkle Championship Teams (Jensen and Sauer). Dave Sauer, Kyle Coway, Gary Pollock, Mike Beck, John Leasky, Mark Wang, Colin Burns, John Swenigas, Luc Gerthman, Jay Perchuk, thank you for giving our all found together in a common cause. There was no doubt about what we were out there for: it was a courageous confidence. After I became head coach, I asked my high

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Lessons in foreign affairs

RAY SPRECH
Nigel's life story

There is one thing Rob Nicholson can count on for 2016.

Less travelling.

The former Niagara Falls MP took "Vacationing" 2015.

As Canada's foreign affairs minister, he did a "tour around" of the world.

During his years as both foreign affairs minister and, before that, as defence minister, Nicholson says he visited about 20 countries, promoting Canadian values and meeting with many of the world's most prominent leaders.

But now, with his Conservative party relegated to the opposition benches, Nicholson will be focused on his new role in justice.

It's a change of pace for the 56-year-old politician who, although he won't soon forget the positive response Canada received when he travelled abroad.

"It really reinforced my belief that Canada is the greatest country in the world," says Nicholson. "People would often ask me if it was tiring, but it wasn't. It was energizing. People were so grateful for what Canada has done, or is doing, to make the world a better place."

One can argue the minister's role in Nicholson's case as he recalls some of the visits to some 20 or so countries.

He says during a trip to Afghanistan about a year ago, that country's defence minister told him 15,000 girls were going to school in Afghanistan in 2015. That number has now grown to about two million.

"We have made a difference over there," says Nicholson.

He remembers visiting Ukraine and seeing puppies everywhere he went. He was told the country has adopted Canada's method of a war memorial.

Nicholson says in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, the foreign affairs minister told him about how his son completed a Terry Fox Run.

Nicholson thought the minister was talking about the event in Canada, but he was actually referring to a run in Abu Dhabi that attracted about 30,000 participants.

"I was pleasantly surprised by how well Canada is viewed, and how influential we are, around the world," he says.

"To the Netherlands, you would think Canada's reputation of the Netherlands was even more the age, not 70 years ago."

Nicholson says in Peru and Panama, people would come up to him and talk about the many programs and projects Canada has funded and supported over the years.

In Iraq, he says, the prime minister and foreign affairs minister told him about how Canadian aid strikes followed on to build on to recovery we've seen," and how Iraq forces push back against ISIS.

Nicholson was an integral part of the Conservative government during the past three years before the party was defeated by Justin Trudeau's Liberals in October.

Nicholson also served as



Niagara Falls Conservative MP Rob Nicholson talks about his "fascinating" 2015 and what he looks forward to in 2016 as justice critic.

assigned.

"I am very grateful (Niagara Falls riding constituents) have put their confidence in me," says Nicholson, adding he intends to fulfil his obligation to voters and complete the rest of his term in office.

"No question about that. I look forward to the next four years."

He says there are several justice-related issues he will

be monitoring.

"The government is talking about legislating marijuana and easing up restrictions here and there, so I expect to be very busy on justice issues."

Nicholson says he will also focus on Niagara-related issues, such as helping the local tourism industry continue to grow after a successful year which saw a greater influx of Americans flowing

across the border spurred on by a lower loonie.

He says he looks forward to spending more time in the riding.

"I always tried to get back to Niagara every weekend anyway, I said to my I don't mind being in Iraq on Wednesday, as long as I can be in Niagara on Saturday."

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Ways to be effective in opposition: Gates

RAY SPORN
Politics Writer

He may be an MPP for a short-guns party, but Wayne Gates is pleased with his first two years as the Niagara Falls riding's representative at Queen's Park.

"The toughest (part) is the

time away from your family, but I am absolutely thrilled and honoured to be the MPP for Niagara Falls, Fort Erie and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"I look forward to getting up on the morning, going to work and making a difference for my riding."

Gates was elected MPP dur-

ing the February 2014 by-election to replace Liberal MPP Ken Coates, who resigned in September 2013 citing mental exhaustion.

For the first time in 15 years, the Niagara Falls riding went orange.

It remained that colour following the general provincial election in June 2014, as Gates, who won previously a Niagara Falls city council seat, held on to his seat.

Since then, the past president of Unifor Local 899 union has been a backbencher for the NDP, which has the third-most seats in the Ontario legislature behind the governing Liberals and the Progressive Conservatives, who are the official opposition.

Gates doesn't see the Niagara Falls riding's current situation as a hindrance.

"I don't believe it's hampering my riding at all that I'm an NDPer. I have earned their respect."

Gates says he often talks to Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne and several of her key ministers.

"They see me coming and they don't run away."

He says it's important to go before government ministers with "fact-based" information, backed by local support.

"You have to make legislative issues, raise them up and make sure, and show them that what you're fighting for is in the best interests of your riding, not because of some self-serving political reason. They are through that."

Gates says for Niagara, and Ontario, in progress, government leaders of all political stripes must work together.

He supports co-operation, as he sees with the ongoing GO train deal in Niagara, where local politicians, who may have different political outlooks, are united in their push to see daily, year-round commuter train service on the region.

"I talk to (St. Catharines Liberal MPP) Jim Bradley all the time, especially about GO. We want to find a way, together, to make this a reality."

Gates says he went as early as possible, and brought his own round-trip GO train service to Niagara during the 2014 by-election.

It's now the No. 1 issue for politicians in Niagara and a few weeks ago has been presented to the provincial government.

Gates says he's glad to see Ontario's Longway and Gearing Corp. take another step toward a new \$100- to \$200-million transportation centre in Niagara Falls by announcing a request for pre-qualification.

Gates says he keeps in touch with the minister of health and the Niagara Health System regarding the ongoing planning process for a new south Niagara hospital proposed in the suburbs of Niagara Falls.

Gates says he has been a longtime supporter of Fort Erie Race Track, which after years of uncertainty is seeing growth.

"We still need more (race) dates and we need to bring back the slots, and it's not something I have been working on and will continue to work on. We need to secure those 750 jobs and that's why the slots are so important."

Gates says he has worked with town, regional and provin-



Niagara Falls NDP MPP Wayne Gates discusses the issues he's passionate about during the 2014 provincial by-election in Niagara Falls.

vincial officials on the proposed \$400-million Canadian Marine Shipway development in Fort Erie.

After a lengthy study by the Ministry of Transportation, shipway officials were told in October it will not have to upgrade its four lane entrance at the Queen Elizabeth Way, and that a two-lane Bowen Road/QEW interchange will be sufficient as long as certain conditions are met.

"That's more (a job for) Niagara and hundreds of millions of dollars in direct and indirect investment."

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, Gates says, he has talked a lot about supporting local farmers, wineries and craft brewers.

"They had a really good year last year, and there's a heightened awareness of the craft beer industry. It's great to see the growth with Niagara College's marketing strategy. Students are getting that education right here in Niagara."

"A lot of good things are happening, and have the potential to happen, in the Niagara Falls riding."

Gates was elected two pe-

riod member's bills in 2014, both of which passed second reading.

One would create a right of passage along the shoreline of the Great Lakes. The second would introduce a new section to the Highway Traffic Act that would strengthen penalties for drivers who cause, or contribute to causing, death or serious injury while violating the act.

Gates says he has one disappointment as an MPP as he is not being able to convince the government to keep Parliament Oak Public School open in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

(District School) Board of Niagara decided to consolidate the school with Cornwall Public School.

"That was the first issue the residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake put their trust in me and I put every ounce of energy into it. I was really disappointed, and I talk to all those families that did such incredible job making sure so passionately. That was tough."

gates@timedmedia.ca
butterfly@timedmedia.ca

Announcement



Melissa Donald CEO, ICG

Mark Stoltz, President of The Insurance Group is pleased to announce that Melissa Donald has joined the team as a Personal Insurance Executive specializing in home auto and life insurance. Melissa brings 8 years of insurance experience and over 20 years of insurance service experience to the team. Melissa's success is based on listening and meeting clients through high quality, personalized service and follow through. She is looking forward to putting her knowledge and experience to work as a Personal Insurance Executive for your family. Melissa is located at the St. Catharines office at 111 Ontario Street, across from Mountbatten park.

For Insurance Advice you can count on contact Melissa Donald today!



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Fort Erie's year in review

January

Fort Erie Council debated the 2016 budget during a meeting at the end of January. The capital budget consisted of 49 projects totalling \$12.5 million. Key projects

included improvements to the Crescent Park storm drainage system and an LED street lighting project.

Damage was estimated to be between \$540,000 and \$600,000 after a transport truck carrying heavy cars went up in flames at the Flying J Truck Stop in late January.

The Fort Erie Meteors' biggest fan and long-time volunteer Carol Sims died on Jan. 14. Sims volunteered for the Meteors for more than 25 years and collected more than 30 years of Meteors history.

Residents in Ward 2 learned they would return to the polling stations to elect a new representative.

In order to fill the vacant seat left after Ward 2 Councillor Rick Shulzer died in December 2014, council agreed to host a by-election.

February

Fort Erie councillors agreed to contribute \$300,000 toward the construction of a state-of-the-art theatre for the new high school. Greater Fort Erie Secondary School, which is currently under construction on Garrison Road.

The District School Board at Niagara agreed to contribute \$500,000 with the remaining \$2 million necessary to build the theatre to be raised through a fundraising committee.

For the first time in more than 40 years, the Ridgeway and Crystal Beach Kinsmen found a place to call home at 2672 Humber Ave. The service club's volunteers



The Fort Erie Meteors' biggest fan and longtime volunteer Carol Sims died Jan. 14. Sims volunteered for the Meteors for more than 25 years and collected more than 30 years of Meteors history. From left, Sims' sister, Kathy Stat, and niece, Cheryl Stat look at the Junior B team's memorabilia.

invited the community to celebrate their new club house during a grand opening dinner and dance.

Volunteer firefighters from Central Station spent a snowy Saturday morning in February clearing snow

from the sidewalk on the Central Avenue Bridge. The firefighters volunteered their time and their own shovels and snowblowers to clear the snow to ensure safety for pedestrians crossing the bridge.



The Ridgeway and Crystal Beach Kinsmen celebrated the service organization's new clubhouse in February.

HONOR ROLL

2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

<p style="color: red; font-size: 1.5em;">1812</p> <p>Claybank Farms</p> <p><i>"Farming the Banks of Black Creek since 1812"</i></p> <p>Shenk Road, Steelesville 905-382-6173</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 1.5em;">1855</p> <p>Canada Trust</p> <p>450 Garrison Road, Fort Erie Phone 905-871-7361</p> <p>Monday-Wednesday 9am-5pm Thursday-Friday 9am-3pm Saturday 9am-4pm</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 1.5em;">1892</p> <p>Canadian Niagara Power Inc.</p> <p>1130 Austin Street, Fort Erie 905-871-0330</p>
<p style="color: red; font-size: 1.5em;">1909</p> <p>Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School</p> <p>576 Ridge Road, Ridgeway 905-894-3461 http://ridgewayhs.dsbm.org</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 1.5em;">1927</p> <p>Glenny Insurance Broker Ltd.</p> <p>www.glenny.ca</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 1.5em;">1928</p> <p>Fort Erie Secondary School</p> <p>4 Tait Avenue, Fort Erie 905-871-4810 http://fess.dsbm.org/</p>

Fort Erie's year in review

March

Workers continued to clean up a chemical spill that occurred on March 5 at 533 Helena St. Nick Paladino, Niagara Region's director of transportation, said the weather posed challenges to the cleanup crew charged with the task of cleaning up the spill. Warmer weather caused the snow to melt and mix with the contaminated liquid. The road remained closed to the public during the clean-up operation.

Members of the Fort Erie Underwater Recovery Unit voted in favour of an agreement to lease the Kinross Pool from the Town of Fort Erie. The new agreement would eventually see the old pool reopened to the public.

Damage was estimated at \$500,000 after a fire engulfed Minor Brothers Country Living, a farm supply retailer in Steelesville.

Fort Erie councillors agreed to provide the Fort Erie Golf Club with a \$500,000 funding



A chemical spill from a building on Helena Street on March 5, caused the regional road to be closed for weeks, and an environmental cleanup company was brought in to clean up the spill.

boost to assist the track in 2015. Councillors also agreed to allow the government to monitor gambling revenues while providing \$250,000 in 2015 and increasing to \$300,000 in 2016.

April

In April, motorists couldn't help but notice a few changes to land near the Thompson Road exit on the Queen Elizabeth

Way. The land was cleared of debris to attract prospective industrial development. Jim Tibbitt, general manager of the Economic and Development and Tourism Corporation, said the land was cleared "so people can actually see that there is industrial land in Fort Erie. Buffalo-based buyers Money, Cosette, Paladino and Kierpse purchased the 3.8-acre property in 2014. The Niagara Region's Public

Works department released a report in April that noted the cleanup of the chemical spill on Helena Street cost nearly \$3 million and that number increased every day by \$45,000. The spill occurred on March 5 from a building at 533 Helena St.

The spilled materials were identified as acetone, toluene and other solvent-type substances, hazardous waste or adhesives. Although dangerous,



The Fort Erie Underwater Recovery Unit voted in favour of an agreement to lease the Kinross Pool from the Town of Fort Erie. From left are underwater recovery unit members, property chairman Mike Larocque, president Donna Wood and past president Jim Traves.

officials said the chemicals pose no health risks to residents.

A by-election was held in April to fill the empty council seat after Ward 2 Councillor Rick Shuler died in December. Stephen Passaro, who served

as Ward 2 councillor from 2003 to 2014, until he sought the mayor's seat in the municipal election in October, won the race with 658 votes, followed by candidates Larry Gruber with 374 votes, John McElroy with 325 and George Jardine with 20.

HONOR ROLL 2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

<p>1938</p> <p>Rebstock's Insurance Office</p> <p>210 Ridgeway Road Crystal Beach 905-894-2974</p>	<p>1942</p> <p>Jones, Jamieson & Redekop</p> <p>Barristers & Solicitors</p> <p>288 Ridge Road, Ridgeway 905-894-0220</p>	<p>1949</p> <p>Beam Home Builders</p> <p>Lawrence Beam, President</p> <p>• Custom Homes • Management Fee Contracts • Consulting • Additions & Garages</p> <p>Steelesville 905-382-3751 LB@beam49@aol.com</p>
<p>JW FURNESS</p> <p>1978</p> <p>Heating Air Conditioning Air & Water Purification Fireplace Installation Plumbing</p> <p>Call for the expert! 905-253-2122 • info@jwfurness.com www.jwfurness.com</p>	<p>1953</p> <p>Intercede INTERNATIONAL</p> <p>201 Stanton, Fort Erie (905) 871-1773 www.intercedenow.ca</p>	<p>1961</p> <p>Green Acres Family Restaurant</p> <p>1554 Garrison Rd., Fort Erie 905-871-1212</p>

Fort Erie's year in review

May

Magari's road users put Dominion Rd. in Fort Erie in the region's top spot and eighth in Ontario in CAA's Worst Roads campaign.

June

Residents of Eagles Landing Mobile Park received notice on June 19 that they are being evicted from the land and have until June 2016 to make other arrangements. Thea Lockwood said she would like to work with the landlord so residents can keep their homes.

July

Mayor Wayne Redekop honoured the memory of former Ward 2 Councillor Rick Shuler by presenting his wife, Susan, with his name plate during a council meeting in July.



Mayor Wayne Redekop honours the memory of former Ward 2 Councillor Rick Shuler by presenting his wife, Susan, with his name plate during a council meeting in July.



Residents of Eagles Landing Mobile Park received notice on June 19 that they are being evicted from the land and have until June 2016 to make other arrangements. (Centre) Thea Lockwood said she would like to work with the landlord so residents can keep their homes.

Magari's road users put Dominion Rd. in Fort Erie in the region's top spot and eighth in Ontario in CAA's Worst Roads campaign.

HONOR ROLL

2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

<p>1970</p> <p>Carroll's Bowling Lanes</p> <p>7 Klauck Street, Fort Erie 905-871-0818</p>	<p>1971</p> <p>Marr Electric Motor Service</p> <p>50 Klauck Street, Fort Erie 905-871-3070</p>	<p>1971</p> <p>Finlayson TIRE LTD.</p> <p>1200 GILMORE RD AT GEW • FORT ERIE • 905-871-2905 • 905-871-8010</p>
<p>1974</p> <p>WILSON FLOOR DESIGN</p> <p>199 Ridge Road N, Ridgeway 905-894-2674</p>	<p>1975</p> <p>EQUINE FORGINGS LTD.</p> <p>577 Industrial Drive, Fort Erie 905-871-7882</p>	<p>1976</p> <p>Peninsula Plastics Limited</p> <p>620 Industrial Drive, Fort Erie Fax: 905-871-4811 (905) 871-4766</p>

Fort Erie's year in review

August

For the first time in three years, the community saw the Kinsmen Pool reopen thanks to the generosity of private donors, local businesses and individuals who donated money, which was used to refurbish the building. Many volunteers worked hard to clean the pool, paint and take all the steps necessary to reopen the Kinsmen Road facility.

The Fort Erie Fire Department's public education department taught 20 youngsters all about fire safety during its annual Junior Firefighter Academy. The five-day camp allows children ages 10 to 12 to meet emergency medical services workers, learn about fire safety and prevention.

The 10th annual Stage of Fort Erie that marked one of the most peaceful engagements between British and American forces during the Niagara campaign of the War of 1812

was held at Old Fort Erie.

September

Niagara Regional Police were out in full force on the first day of school to remind motorists to slow down, pay attention and follow the rules of the road. Every available officer working that day participated in the 10th annual Rock to School campaign.

The Ridgeway-Crystal Beach Blue Devils received the surprise of a lifetime when members of the team learned they were the recipients of \$25,000 worth of new equipment from the Nissan Kickoff Project.

In addition to being given new gear, the players received training from Canadian football league players including Ray Helleu.

Alastair Doves, Habitat for Humanity Niagara's chief executive officer announced that two new single-family homes will be built in Fort Erie at 523 Crescent Rd. Construction of these homes is

set to begin this year.

Alastair said the land that the homes will be situated on was given to Habitat for Humanity Niagara by a private donor.

The first annual Taste of Fort Erie, hosted by the Bridgesburg Business Improvement Association, drew thousands of hungry people to Jarvis Street.

October

Justin Trudeau became the second-youngest prime minister in Canadian history when he was elected to office in October.

The Canadian Interior Speedway received the green light from the Ministry of Transportation and the province to move forward with its plan for the two-lane interchange of Sower Road on the Queen Elizabeth Highway.

CIBC officials announced they wouldn't be required to upgrade the two-lane interchange as long as they met certain conditions which include closing the interchange

at certain traffic thresholds based on the number of accidents to events and the traffic queue length.

Wonglers from Foster Cattle Recovery, a company out of Altonville, Ont. were called to recover three female beaver that escaped from Willowdale Farm. One beaver was struck and killed by two vehicles on the Queen Elizabeth Way near Lynn's Creek Road.

The remaining beaver were captured and taken to a farm in Hagersville where they are free to run around and enjoy life with 70 other beaver.



The community celebrated the opening of the Kinsmen Pool in August.



The Ridgeway-Crystal Beach Blue Devils received the surprise of a lifetime when they learned they were the recipients of \$25,000 worth of new equipment from the Nissan Kickoff Project during their practice.



Wonglers with Foster Cattle Recovery, a company out of Altonville, Ont., captured the last remaining beaver on Saturday, Oct. 31, 2015 in rural Niagara Falls. The beaver was one of three that escaped from a Willowdale Farm on Sunday, Oct. 4, 2015. One beaver was struck and killed by two vehicles on the Queen Elizabeth Way near Lynn's Creek Road on Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015. The other was caught Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2015.

2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

<div style="background-color: #800000; color: white; padding: 5px; transform: rotate(-15deg); display: inline-block;">HONOR ROLL</div> <div style="margin-top: 20px;"> <p>1981</p> <p>K. Riel Electric Ltd.</p> <p>430 Gorham Road, Ridgeway</p> <p>905-894-2229</p> </div>	<div style="margin-top: 20px;"> <p>1984</p> <p>D.W. Howard Realty Ltd.</p> <p>Proudly Serving You For Over 30 Years</p> <p>384 Ridge Road, Ridgeway</p> <p>905-694-1703</p> </div>	<div style="margin-top: 20px;"> <p>1993</p> <p>Dr. Phillip Davies</p> <p><small>FAMILY DENTIST</small></p> <p>905-382-4655</p> <p>2519 Steelesville Rd., Steelesville</p> </div>
<div style="margin-top: 20px;"> <p>1998</p> <p>THE TRIUMPH SPA</p> <p>ATLANTIC SPA</p> <p>(905) 871-4141</p> <p>www.theatriumspa.com</p> </div>	<div style="margin-top: 20px;"> <p>2000</p> <p>TECH SERVICES NIAGARA</p> <p>your one-stop computer repair & service centre</p> <p>967 Helena Street, Fort Erie</p> <p>289-478-5420</p> </div>	<div style="margin-top: 20px;"> <p>2002</p> <p>LAKE SIDE HOME IMPROVEMENTS</p> <p><small>Quality Work - Fair Prices</small></p> <p>Simon Grant Owner</p> <p>905.694.8751</p> <p>lake@delhi@cogeco.ca</p> </div>

Fort Erie's year in review

November

The Niagara Parks Commission reappointed Joyce Thomson as commission chairwoman for a second term by Michael Corbett, minister of tourism and culture on Nov. 15. Thomson, executive director of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce, was first appointed to the commission's board of directors in June 2010 after then tourism minister Michael Choo made sweeping changes to the board in an effort to take the 130-year-old agency in a new direction. Santa Claus arrived in Fort Erie early in order to appear at the Greater Fort Erie Santa Claus Parade. Many schools and organizations participated in the parade including Niagara Christa-ellen, Ridgeway Crystal Beach High School, Fort Erie Secondary School, and the Fort Erie Kiwanis.

The Buffalo and Fort Erie Peace Bridge Authority illuminated the Peace Bridge in blue, white and red—the colours of the French flag—in the wake of the terrorist strikes that took place on Nov. 13. The Peace Bridge joined several other world landmarks that were illuminated to remember more than 130 who lost their lives in France's capital.

December

Approximately 30 people watched as John Fulton, a.k.a. Surling Santa, made his 31st annual trek across the Niagara River from Canada to the U.S. and back on a stand-up paddle board on Dec. 23. He has made the journey every year since 1985 in order to raise awareness for homelessness in Niagara. Fulton asked spectators to bring donations at socks, underwear and

other clothing, which were distributed to individuals in need.

Fort Erie's David Chaffin appeared on an episode of the popular Canadian television show *Dragons' Den*, which aired early in December on CBC. He asked the Dragons for \$300,000 in exchange for 20 per cent of his company but was ultimately denied. He invented a product called The Lucky Little Scratchies. The invention looks like a small pencil but it's made of 90 per cent paper. It scratches lottery cards with ease and the excess meat sticks right to it. Fort Erie's Nicholas Strager challenged members of the community to donate money for every goal their favourite hockey team. He called the fundraiser Goals for Cope and all of the proceeds supported the food bank at Community Outreach Program Erie.



The Buffalo and Fort Erie Peace Bridge Authority announced that the Peace Bridge would be lit blue, white and red—the colours of the French flag—in the wake of terrorist strikes that took place in Paris on Friday. The Peace Bridge joined several world landmarks that have been illuminated to remember more than 130 people who lost their lives in France's capital.



John Fulton made his 31st annual Niagara River crossing between Fort Erie, Ont. and Buffalo, N.Y., on Dec. 23.

<p>2003</p> <p>GORD'S FORT ERIE DRIVING SCHOOL LOCALLY OWNED</p> <p>1254 GARRISON ROAD, FORT ERIE 289-320-8252</p>	<p>winexpert 2005</p> <p>Goodness Grapes 86 Midway Place, Fort Erie 905-994-9463 "Where Fine Wines Are Born"</p>	<p>2007 BTI Design</p> <p>weatherdeck / flexstone</p> <p>For more information visit: www.weatherdeckinc.com 905-993-1330</p>
<p>2007</p> <p>RIDGEWAY WELLNESS CENTRE Janet Gigone - Owner 355 Ridge Road N., Ridgeway 905-894-1551 ridgewaywellnesscentre.com</p>	<p>2009</p> <p>CHOICE INDEPENDENT DENTAL HYGIENE Our office is located at 368 Ridge Rd N. in Ridgeway. 905 894-3095 www.choiceindependentdentalhygiene.ca</p>	<p>2010</p> <p>Performance Plus Car Care Centre 475 Central Ave., Fort Erie 289-320-8179 www.performancepluscarcare.ca</p>
<p>2012</p> <p>J & R AUTOMOTIVE For all of your auto repair & detailing needs! 52 Dufferin St., Fort Erie 289-320-9887</p>	<p>2013</p> <p>Williams Funeral Services, Inc. (905) 894-1161 Tracy McFee and Maria Reid Funeral Directors</p>	<p><i>Thank you to all who participated in our Annual Community Honor Roll, we wish everyone a Happy 2015</i></p>

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**2015
CADILLAC
ATS SEDAN**

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@4.25% BI WEEKLY PLUS TAXES, PLUS LIC OAC*

**2015
EMPLOYEE
CASH PRICE
\$26,901¹⁵⁰
PLUS NET AND LIC**

MSRP \$40,560

#16C0794

**2015
CADILLAC
ATS SEDAN**

84 MONTH PURCHASE PRICE
@4.25% BI WEEKLY PLUS TAXES PLUS HST AND OAC*

**2015
EMPLOYEE
CASH PURCHASE
PRICE
\$38,998⁹⁷
PLUS NET AND LIC**

MSRP \$53,695

#40C0795

**2015
CADILLAC
ATS
PERFORMANCE
AWD**

84 MONTH PURCHASE PRICE
@4.25% BI WEEKLY PLUS HST AND LIC OAC*

**2015
EMPLOYEE
CASH PRICE
\$27,158¹⁵
PLUS NET AND LIC**

MSRP \$40,895

#40C0795

**2015
CADILLAC
ATS SEDAN**

84 MONTH PURCHASE PAYMENT
@4.25% BI WEEKLY PLUS TAXES, PLUS LIC OAC*

**2015
EMPLOYEE
CASH PURCHASE
PRICE
\$30,988
PLUS NET AND LIC**

MSRP \$47,820

#16C0805

**2015
CADILLAC
ATS
AWD LUXURY
SEDAN**

84 MONTH PURCHASE PRICE
@4.25% BI WEEKLY PLUS HST AND LIC OAC*

**2015
EMPLOYEE
CASH PURCHASE
PRICE
\$45,914⁹⁷
PLUS NET AND LIC**

MSRP \$61,465

#40C0822

**2015
CADILLAC
CTS
LUXURY AWD**

84 MONTH PURCHASE PRICE
@4.25% BI WEEKLY PLUS HST AND LIC OAC*

**2015
EMPLOYEE
CASH PRICE
\$26,973⁹⁷
PLUS NET AND LIC**

MSRP \$40,705

#16C0807

**2015
CADILLAC
ATS SEDAN**

84 MONTH PURCHASE PAYMENT
@4.25% BI WEEKLY PLUS TAXES, PLUS LIC OAC*

**2015
EMPLOYEE
CASH PURCHASE
PRICE
SOLD
PLUS NET AND LIC**

MSRP \$48,785

#16C0804

**2015
CADILLAC
LUXURY
SEDAN**

84 MONTH PURCHASE PRICE
@4.25% BI WEEKLY PLUS HST AND LIC OAC*

**2015
EMPLOYEE
CASH PURCHASE
PRICE
\$49,995⁹⁸
PLUS NET AND LIC**

MSRP \$66,035

#40C0823

**2015
CADILLAC
CTS
PERFORMANCE
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SARAH FERGUSON/STAFF PHOTO

Fort Erie's Alyssa Duncan developed a passion for travelling and helping others when she first visited Dominica in 2011.

Volunteering abroad is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for Fort Erie woman

SARAH FERGUSON
FortErieTimes

It was a high school trip that changed Alyssa Duncan's life forever.

"I went to Dominica in 2011 with other people from Lakeshore Catholic High School. That's where I found my passion for helping people," Duncan explained.

"It was a 10 day trip where I spent time helping in schools and painting buildings."

The fourth year Wildlife Lawline University visited Morocco in May where she stayed with a host family consisting of two parents

and nine children for three weeks. While in Morocco, Duncan taught English to women and she also volunteered in a day care.

She learned about the opportunity through the International Volunteer HQ, a volunteer recruitment agency.

"My friend and I did some research and we decided we should go for it."

Duncan described her time in Morocco as "an amazing experience."

"When I go to different countries, I always realize how I take things for granted here in Canada that I wouldn't."

The lifestyle and culture in Morocco was much different than back home in Fort Erie.

Her host family spoke very little English so learning to communicate was one obstacle Duncan faced.

"Instead of using forks, the people in Morocco use bread or their hands to eat their food and make their rice into a ball and eat it," she added.

Duncan admitted she can get homesick while away but she uses social media to stay in contact with her family.

Duncan is also planning

an 11-day trip to El Salvador in February where she will work with Habitat for Humanity to build homes.

"I've never picked up a hammer before and now I am going to learn how to build homes, except not the way we build homes here. I'm going to learn how they build homes in El Salvador with the materials they use there which is a little bit different than what we're used to."

Duncan is "looking forward to new experiences" and "learning new things."

Volunteering and travelling has changed Duncan's life.

"I've had experiences that I wouldn't have otherwise had," she said.

One of the most memorable experiences Duncan recalls is visiting the Scholas deses.

"It's one of the best experiences I've ever had. While I was volunteering I got the chance to see it and it's mesmerizing. The sand is piled up and it looks like mountains. The sand is also a very bright orange."

Duncan said there are lots of opportunities to volunteer abroad if people are interested; it just requires a little research.

"It's not hard to get involved. There are a lot of web sites to go to," Duncan said.

If anyone is interested in travelling, Duncan said they should go for it.

"I say if you dream it, do it. Put those dreams to reality because it is achievable in the end," Duncan said.

"Experiences are priceless."

When she graduates from university in the program, Duncan's goal is to attend teacher's college, and later, live abroad in Japan where she dreams of teaching English.

sarah.ferguson@unimelb.edu.au



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The Friends of Gilmore partnered with the Gilmore Lodge auxiliary to hand out gifts to residents on Christmas Eve. Each year, volunteers receive a wish list from residents they try to fill. The items handed out include bathrobes, clothing, candy, cookies and hair dresser gift certificates. Throughout the year, the Gilmore Lodge auxiliary holds fundraisers including raffles, bazaars and 50/50 draws to raise money. All of the proceeds go toward making the residents happy.



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Scherri Dickson, Andrea Harro, Stacy Kargen and Rachel Boles recently celebrated the grand opening of Zen Day Spa in Fort Erie.

Business partners are 'confident in Fort Erie'

SARAH PEDERSON
Fort Erie Times

Andrea Harro and her business partner Stacy Kargen want to bring something different to Fort Erie.

The duo recently celebrated the grand opening of their business, Zen Day Spa of Fort Erie, which offers all the services people have come to expect from a spa, such as massages, pedicures, facials, hair removal, body treatments, scrubs and massages. They also offer nail cosmetic make up and permanent make up.

Kargen got her start in the service industry when she became a nail technician, and worked for a number of years in a nail salon.

She developed an interest in permanent make up and cosmet-

ic aesthetics, in order to perform make up services safely on anyone with a suspended license system.

"There's a lot more than just getting pretty toes. Now that we've opened a business here in Fort Erie, I'd like to help women. I want them to leave here feeling less stressed and a little bit better about themselves."

Harro, who graduated from Niagara College's multi-technician program, said she's always trying to learn new things.

"Both Stacy and I have a passion for what we do, it's not just a job to us. We put our hearts and souls into this and we expect going to work every day."

The business partners, who are lifelong residents of Fort Erie, said they found the perfect place to set up shop, and soon

many new businesses will follow.

"We're confident in Fort Erie. I think we're seeing the calm before the storm," Kargen said.

The co-owners plan to utilize empty space in the building on Garrison Road to host a variety of workshops for the community to enjoy.

"We'd like to see any type of feel good, volunteer workshops. It could be anything from make up workshops for adults and teens, art workshops, or nutritional workshops," Kargen said.

"We're looking for anyone interested in hosting a workshop that is like-minded to our industry," she added.

For more information about Zen Day Spa of Fort Erie at 1180 Garrison Rd., call 209-358-0706.

sarah@zenforderie.ca

Niagara police to enforce new rules for background checks

ALL SAVANNAH
Postmedia Network

Niagara Regional Police are ready for changes in information they can access from background records checks.

The Ontario government recently passed legislation, called the Police Records Check Reform Act, that will affect thousands of people in Niagara every year. Employers and volunteer organizations often use the checks as a screening process.

They also use criminal applications as professional licensing, home rental, child custody and more.

The new legislation standardizes the procedure across the province.

Gary Holden, manager of corporate and criminal information management for the RNP and the services already following protocols the legislation used to be for the new act.

"We are reviewing our overall process and strengthening it to become a little more efficient," Holden said. "There are some weaknesses we will make."

"Police services have been asking how the process impacted lawyers. It should be the same to consider when you're."

Niagara police staff handle about 30,000 background checks per year.

The only release information from background checks with the permission of the person involved, and the person consent what police plan to release.

If someone objects to any of the information, he or she can ask for "reasonable access" to have the data purged from it at the bottom of the record.

"The information goes directly back to the applicant, not a community agency or employer," Holden said.

"That way, there is anything in there that has been reviewed, we can make any modification that an applicant, before they take a check to the community."

The checks cost \$40 for a complete background check and \$15 for a background check on someone looking for release. The department runs on cost recovery basis.

The new legislation gives limited on demand of non-criminal information whenever a person has had charges dropped or been found not guilty at trial.

Police are prepared in the province will only be allowed to disclose non-criminal information if the individual is in a position of trust or authority over vulnerable individuals such as children or the elderly.

Minor contact with police that did not result in charges won't be disclosed.

Community Safety and Correctional Services Minister John Horgan said the provision is a balance between public safety and the strengthening of children.



Criminal background check application form with glasses and ballpoint pen.

"The bill provides consistent and effective rules in place for the first time in Ontario's history to make sure that Ontarians are no longer negatively impacted by records of police contacts that do not pertain to criminal activity," Horgan said.

"The legislation is the outcome of negotiations between police chiefs, civil liberties and human rights groups and community safety and social health advocates," Horgan said.

The budget lines for requests for RNP issued background checks is the full, Holden said.

"We always have a budget in September," Holden said. "It's the budget time for all the police services in the province. History begins on starting up. Schedule are starting up. There are some things to be done at the beginning of the year."

"The legislation is the outcome of negotiations between police chiefs, civil liberties and human rights groups and community safety and social health advocates," Horgan said.

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Bouquet for dentist and staff
A large bouquet for Bertie Dental Office and staff. After experiencing a huge dental dilemma, Doctor Frango and the staff came to my rescue and helped to make me feel better. They were caring, professional and genuinely sympathetic about my situation. I hope that and my business takes a page out of their book. They made me feel that I was a person and not just a number. Thanks for being there for me, you guys rock.

Bouquet for good memories
Thanks for the kind gestures and lady who helped stop the bleeding and call 911 on Jan. 4, 2016 when I tripped over ice and snow at the intersection of Garrison and Thompson Rd. The ambulance took me to Niagara Falls. There are many kind people in this town.

Bouquet for trespassing
A lot of trespassers who can't stop off of private property. This land has been pointed "no trespassing" burning and getting property many times as these people keep tearing the signs down. The police know their

business and are making 20% through this property and won't even try to stop them. I've caught these kids and asked them to stop and they won't. It's sad that parents don't have control over their kids, especially when it comes to other people's property.

Bouquet for dog shed
I unfortunately have a black and

white. I am stunned at the amount of dog dro that I see everyday on the sidewalks of Ridgewood. A trick for these who do not clean up after their dogs! There is no excuse as there are garbage receptacles along the way on Ridge Road. I did not appreciate having to clean up a major dump off the sidewalk right in front of our house. I think that if they are caught not cleaning up after their dog, they should be fined. Spring show is when you have to tip toe around the virtual mine field of dog poop on our sidewalks. Tied is a major bone of contention for me.

Bouquet for carmen drivers
A bouquet for the people that don't use turning signals when they make lane changes. It is the busiest time of the year and it's really hard to stay safe when people are so careless behind the wheel.

Bouquet for a honest person
A bouquet thank you to the person who handed in my wallet at Fort Erie No Tolls on Saturday. Honestly it felt divine!

Bouquet for store clerks
A bouquet for the pleasant and helpful clerks who work at Canadian Tire. I wish that I could say the same for the telephone manners of a few clerks who work at another department store in town.

Bouquet for people who write in capital letters.
A bouquet for people who send e-mails or post on social media using nothing but capital letters. Seriously, did you forget how to write? Maybe you should go back to grade school and learn.

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Family awaits the keys to their new life

FRANK ROMANO
Fort Erie News

It's a home being built at Niagara College, one seen by its future residents as "a new beginning in everything."

People crowded in to that half-built house at the college's Welland campus in winter good wishes to the newcomers to the family that will eventually occupy that Habitat for Humanity house.

Habitat Niagara Monday held a wood-signing ceremony at the college's Rastko Technology Centre for where a team of more than 70 students from the construction technology and renovation trades programs have been busy building a modular house since October.

The house is set to move to its permanent location on Martin Street in Welland in the spring.

A family of six who came to Canada as refugees from El Salvador in 2011 will call the house home.

"For us it means everything right now because we had a very hard time coming to Canada," said Claudia Pulcin. "We had a very hard time in El Salvador and we had to leave everything — we left our lives, our houses, our friends, and that is our new beginning in everything." "Especially, this house is like when a host finally arrives to the..."

"In the final part," he said, Jose Pulcin chimed in.

Claudia and Jose, their three children and Claudia's mother, Antonia, are looking forward to the time when their Habitat house will provide.

The family now resides in

Fort Erie. Claudia is working through apprenticeship that will allow her to practice dentistry in Canada and Jose is in an apprenticeship program at Niagara College.

In her free time, Claudia volunteers with the Diocese of St. Catharines helping with the sponsorship process in being Syrian refugees to the region.

She said she feels it's important for her and her family to help people fleeing their homes for Canada, so they succeed.

"I think this is why exactly the point that you can understand you can understand how difficult it is to move from your home country to a new country — the culture shock is very large," Claudia said. "That's the hope for a brighter future, the hope for safety in everything."

Monday's event was a way for Habitat for Humanity Niagara to celebrate the work that's been done and to offer best wishes to the Pulcin family, and CEO Aleksei Denis.

"We have been to celebrate the stage of construction that we're at with this modular house at Niagara College, to celebrate it by being here and cheering on and celebrating with the students," he said.

During opening speeches, Anthony Elford, one of the students involved in the construction of the house, spoke of the significance of being involved in a Habitat build.

"Being the house for Habitat for Humanity, it's been an amazing experience to get in and learn a completely different field of the same trade. It's also an amazing feeling to build a house for a family that's in great need for it," Elford said.



FRANK ROMANO / FOR ERIE NEWS

First-year Niagara College students Anthony Elford, left, and Matthew D'Audelle sign the interior of a Habitat house at Habitat for Humanity Niagara's wood-signing ceremony at Niagara College on Monday.

"People left messages congratulating the family, offering them hope for the future, health and happiness."

"Everyone was handed a black marker and they had their chance to write their best wishes, their points of celebration, expression of excitement, prayers, etc. onto the wood that's here, that will eventually be covered up with flooring and with dry wall but those messages will be there forever and the family knows it," Denis said.



FRANK ROMANO / FOR ERIE NEWS
Isabella Pulcin peeks out the window of what will eventually be her new home at Habitat for Humanity Niagara's ceremony at Niagara College.

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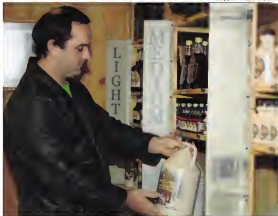
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Richard Berling, manager of White Meadows Farms in Pelham, takes a look at a jug of maple syrup at the farm's maple syrup store last Tuesday in Pelham.

Maple syrup makers facing an early harvest

MICHELLE ALLENDAHL

Pelham's latest

Local maple syrup makers may find themselves in the sugar business earlier this year.

Richard Berling, manager at White Meadows Farms in Pelham, knows exactly how much of an impact Mother Nature has on sap. It's been around

maple syrup production for more than 20 years.

Berling used to be a stopgap producer about production this year despite warmer weather in November and December, and uncertainty of how it may will continue to affect temperatures. Last year the farm produced one-and-a-half million gallons of syrup, which was one of the best

seasons the farm has had. Berling said he is still sure that won't be as much this year.

The lowest amount of sap flowing from trees last year produced three-quarters of a litre per tap.

The season usually starts in February and ends in the middle of March, but this can be affected by the weather. Berling said he usually says his trees are in Valentine's Day — it's a kind of Valentine's present to himself.

Because of the polar vortex the past two years, Berling said he couldn't start making syrup until the middle of March. The harvest didn't start until about the middle of April.

Ray Donsberg, a spokesman for the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association, said maple farmers are being told to prepare for a possible early harvest.

Donsberg said it's uncertain what the effect this cold weather will have on maple syrup production. There might be an earlier season, but he said the doesn't mean it will be a bad year.

"You've got to bide. You watch the weather, you know the weather, you watch your sugar bush," Donsberg said about knowing when to harvest.

What really affects sugar

maple trees is having prolonged periods of maple, said a local. A few weeks without water or with hot temperatures won't affect the production of syrup.

To extract sap, there needs to be fluctuations in temperature, with colder nights below zero, and warmer days above zero. This allows sap to move through the tree and out, and out again.

The cold weather is a major concern factor in maple syrup production because it changes sap sugar content. If the weather is abnormally warm the sap will take on a more watery flavor.

"The more frozen the ground, the sooner down, the sooner it will be," Donsberg said.

Maple syrup is never the same from year to year. The weather, sunlight and other conditions have a great impact on when the syrup will taste like other products. Donsberg said maple syrup and winemaking are similar in that regard.

"The sugar and people find a producer they enjoy and develop a relationship."

"Try to be different. Because the producer has to offer every year," he said.

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Crossley outruns short-staffed Ridgeway to clinch consolation championship

BEIRD FRANK

Times Staff

The E.L. Crossley Cyclone basketball team is becoming a household name up and down a basketball court for 12 minutes.

With six pairs of fresh legs on the bench in their Tribune Boys Basketball Tournament consolation semifinal, there was little chance Crossley would run out of gas before the clock ran out of time.

On the other hand, the Ridgeway-Crystal Beach Blue Devils, their opponent in Friday afternoon's consolation game at Dolan Hall in Welland, weren't as prepared to take part in a track meet.

With only seven players, including two who showed up 10 minutes before tipoff, and playing in their third game in as many days the Devils that sport Lakerhore — a much larger team from a much larger school — in the quarter-final round just didn't have the energy to take down another Gallop.

After Ridgeway took a 16-12 lead into the second quarter, Crossley head coach Doug Atchison asked assistant coach Harry Haggerty to "tell me the five guys who can give me a lot of energy out there."

Atchison did that with the goal of making three-point shots out of Ridgeway's arsenal. He noted the Blue Devils had been "especially effective" shooting outside in their win over Lakeland.

Part of the fatigue factor is taking away five legs," he said after the 40-40 victory.

Era Kalchauer, who was selected the Cyclone player of the game, said Ridgeway's victory over Lakeland convinced the team it couldn't take the Blue Devils lightly.

"We tried all about three quarters. We knew we didn't let up against them," he said. "We knew they would be playing on their legs, and they did." Kalchauer doesn't consider advancing to a final on the D side of the bracket as a consolation prize.

"However you advance it's motivation to become a better team," he said. "We are not an experienced team, so every game against strong competition will help us."

Crossley also knew it could afford to play more aggressively given Ridgeway's intention to get to a final round with such a short bench.

"That definitely affected the defense we played today," Blue Devils head coach Rob Denno said.

He wasn't surprised that Ridgeway's shooting wasn't as



BEIRD FRANK/TIMES STAFF PHOTO

Ridgeway-Crystal Beach's Jesse Aquilino, No. 23, battles E.L. Crossley's Mackenzie Brown, No. 11, for the rebound while A.J. Stewart looks on in Tribune Boys Basketball Tournament consolation semifinal action last Friday.

hot as it was Thursday, when it rebounded from an 18-3 deficit to defeat Lakeland 48-37.

"It's three games after a long holiday break. They just don't, that's expected."

Denno, who taught and coached at Lakeland before transferring to become the athletic director at Lakeland, said Ridgeway was playing tough but not surprised the Blue Devils advanced to the third round.

"They played hard, but they weren't do."

A.J. Stewart, Ridgeway's player of the game, said fatigue was the key factor contributing to the loss.

"Playing seven players really started to take a toll on us after back to back-to-back games," he said, pointing out the zone 5 regular season schedule has teams playing two games at most per week.

Despite Ridgeway's loss, Stewart said the Blue Devils were

not sold the Blue Devils were proud of the way they competed on the day, 36-team tournament.

"We know we can beat the big schools," he said.

Crossley has gone 6-4 in consolation finals since taking the title in 2009. The Tribune high school's last overall championship was in 2009.

Josh Lohr and Stephen Scott led Crossley to scoring with 16 points each. Stewart, 16, led Ridgeway on the scoreboard.

Ridgeway lost four of the consolation championship in 1500. It has yet to win the top prize.

The day-day, 36-team tournament wrapped up Saturday with a championship dinner at the New Centre in Welland. The consolation final tipped off at 6:30 p.m. followed by the title game at 7:30 p.m.



BEIRD FRANK/TIMES STAFF PHOTO

E.L. Crossley's Doug Shepherd, left, defeats Ridgeway-Crystal Beach's Luke Collier, No. 11, in Tribune Boys Basketball Tournament consolation semifinal action last Friday in Welland.

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Gators swamped in 'tale of two halves'

BERNIE FRANK
Pictorial Network

The Ridgeway-Crystal Beach Blue Devils were down 18-5 to the Lakeshore Gators at halftime, and 16 minutes away from being among the earliest casualties at the 61st Tri-state Boys Basketball Tournament.

Can't you just hear the fat lady clearing her voice? Many in the bleachers at Jean Vanier last Thursday certainly heard her, and maybe some of the Blue Devils did, too.

But the Ridgeway players also heard head coach Bob Deacon, and they wound up needing a halftime pep talk encouraging them to step up their game on defence in the David-Goliath battle against a much larger team from a much larger school.

"I told them, 'good things will happen for teams that play strong defence,'" said Deacon, whose team tipped off the tournament with

a 61-29 loss to the Denis Morris Bulldogs and was hoping to avoid a two-and-out finish.

Turns out, good things — actually, great things — happened to teams that except to place a bottom under Prof. Deacon's proverbial peach basket. Ridgeway outscored Lakeshore 37-19 the rest of the way for a 48-37 upset victory and a berth in a consolation semifinal versus the S.J. Creaseville Cyclones on Friday.

"This was a tale of two halves," a smiling Deacon said, shaking his head at the remarkable comeback. "The others were starting to fall for us."

Nick Bolton, who paced the Blue Devils with 12 points (including two threes in the final half), was singled out as Ridgeway's player of the game. "I think we started playing like a team. We started passing the ball," he said. Like his coach, Bolton

described the difference between the two halves as night and day. "In the second half, we played a fantastic game



The Lakeshore Gators get a pep talk on the sidelines during a break in action last Thursday in Welland.

There's no silver way to describe it." The Grade 12 student and Lakeshore assistant coach Andrew Beon said the Gators let Ridgeway back into Thursday's elimination game at Jean Vanier in Welland.

"We stopped playing a little on the D. We didn't win the battle of the boards," said Beon, a principal at the Port Colborne high school.

"It was not in the plans," Glenn Gifford, the team's head coach and Lakeshore's principal, said of the disappointing outcome.

"This is the part of coaching that definitely hurts."

Gifford and Beon are the only administrators coaching high school basketball in south Niagara this year.

While having a principal at the bench is hardly unusual — "It's practically unheard of," Gifford suggested — the former teacher and one-time football coach took over the team to help build the program and "keep as many positive relationships as I can with the kids."

"We were all teachers, and we are coaches," said Gifford, who spent 14 years coaching Lakeshore's Varsity



BERNIE FRANK/PICTORIAL NETWORK

Ridgeway-Crystal Beach's A.J. Stewart, blue head band, bats away a loose ball in Tri-state Boys Basketball Tournament consolation quarter-final action against Lakeshore last Thursday in Welland.

football team.

Gifford and Beon, who also coached football, admitted they are still learning the X's and O's of basketball. "We talk to a lot of coaching colleagues, go on YouTube..." Gifford said. "YouTube is our friend!" Beon added, completing his boss's sentence.

Caeden Moore with 11 points, and player of the

game Bailey Moreno and Sergio Sereena, eight apiece, were top scorers for the Gators, who opened the tournament with a 37-30 loss to the St. Michael's Missionary.

A.J. Stewart and Blake Wengler netted nine and six points, respectively, for the Blue Devils.

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JOSHUA BROWN/SPORTS ILLUSTRATED FOR THE FORT ERIE TIMES/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

The Fort Erie Meteors grabbed a 5-3 victory over the Niagara Falls Canucks last Saturday.

Meteors double up Canucks for victory

SARAH PETERSON
Fort Erie Times

The Fort Erie Meteors captured a 5-3 victory this past weekend, putting an end to a seven-game winning streak for the Niagara Falls Canucks.

Anthony Passaro, who was selected as the Golden Horseshoe Conference offensive player of the month, said the Meteors "came out hard" Saturday night at the Fort Erie Leasimplex.

"A good start is key at home and we came out wanting to put on a show. Niagara Falls has been hot and we knew we wanted to get after them early."

Passaro said he was "disappointed in the officiating."

"It's not bad when they take over a game like that, for both teams. Sometimes, it would be nice if they would just let us play. With that being said, I am proud of the game and how we battled through the penalties and took it to the 60 minutes."

Fort Erie scored 70 minutes of penalty time on 14 infractions while Niagara Falls earned 50 minutes on 13 infractions.

Kiley Dethlefs scored 16 of 30 shots on Fort Erie's net and Josh Harvey scored 18 of 19 for Niagara Falls.

Hadden Garland netted a hat trick, David Singer scored two goals and Cody Petrowski scored a single goal to secure the victory for the Meteors.

Matthew Baldizotti scored two goals and Sean Pongorich



JOSHUA BROWN/SPORTS ILLUSTRATED FOR THE FORT ERIE TIMES/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Anthony Passaro of the Fort Erie Meteors was selected as the Golden Horseshoe Conference offensive player of the month for December. General Phil Quaranta presented him with the award at the Fort Erie Leasimplex.

scored a single for Niagara Falls.

The Meteors have a record of 15 wins, 16 losses and six ties for a total of 36 points in the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League Golden Horseshoe Conference. Fort Erie stands behind the fourth-place Canucks, with 20 wins, 14 losses and two ties for a total of 42 points.

FORT ERIE 1, CALEDONIA 4

The Fort Erie Meteors fell 4-1 to the hosting Caledonia Coyotes Friday night. David Singer scored the only

goal for the Meteors on a power play, Murray Mazza and Hadden Garland assisted.

Tyler Hill, Daniel Volpe, Tait Segin and Austin Brown scored single goals for the Coyotes.

At 21 minutes into the third period, Caledonia picked up the most penalty minutes. Fort Erie incurred 13 minutes on six infractions.

Bryden Lechance scored 50 shots on Fort Erie's net. Matt Savelle scored 28 of 34 shots for Caledonia.

said bjep@postmedia.ca

Winter Worship Services

Riverside Community Church
www.riversidecommunitygo.com
 CURRENT SERIES: **reset**
 Sundays: 9:00am & 10:45am

www.pennsylvaniachurches.org

The Pennsylvania Deutsche congregations (many of whom are German Fort Erie) will be in 1-2. Ministers will be in the League group and 1. Lutherans, Quakers, Catholics, Episcopalians, Jews, Baptists, and Reformed members moved on to an old center. Zion's Church (Glenora), a "second meeting" minister in Canada's first "Union Church" (Barnesville) and other churches and some Lutherans built their own churches, while Jews, Quakers and Catholics moved into and established in the union church. Today it is known as St. John's Lutheran United Church. Sunday worship services 11:00 am, only services in Sodus, Rd. 15, Erie, just north of Sodusville, QSW exits 16 & 17.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Economic Development Officer (EDO)
Competition #011-2015
Salary Range: \$50,000 - \$61,000

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER - POSITION SUMMARY

Reporting to the General Manager, the Economic Development Officer (EDO) will play a key role in the development, implementation and administration of programs to promote industrial and commercial investment, business retention and business attraction in Fort Erie. Responsibilities of the EDO include, but are not limited to: assisting in the development of policies and the administration of programs that promote industrial and commercial business development; working with the strategic goals and objectives of the Corporation; conducting economic and competitive research; coordinating special projects; grant applications and project monitoring; the creation and implementation of marketing strategies; representing the Fort Erie EDO in official and promotional functions; and, working with potential investors, business associations and government agencies.

QUALIFICATIONS

To be considered for this challenging opportunity, a candidate must possess the following qualifications:

- at least three (3) years of experience in community based economic development or equivalent;
- a degree in Economics or Business Administration or EAO certification or equivalent experience and demonstrated knowledge of business/strategic planning policy development; project management; business development; municipal governance and administration and industry trade;
- advanced research, report writing and presentation competencies;
- demonstrated ability to develop, maintain and leverage professional relationships;
- demonstrated working knowledge of community based economic development principles and a comprehensive understanding of the socio-economic climate of the Fort Erie City, the Niagara Region and the province of Ontario;
- advanced MS Excel, MS Word and MS PowerPoint skills;
- ability to work well with a small team environment;
- valid driver's license with regular access to a vehicle;
- ability to travel across the U.S./Canada border.

Qualified candidates are encouraged to submit a covering letter and resume - through one of the following channels: Salary range is \$50,000 - \$61,000 plus benefits and pension contribution after completion of successful probationary period.

For more information, please visit: www.forterie.ca (in MS Word or pdf format ONLY)

Info: Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation
660 Glenora Road, Unit 1, Fort Erie, ON, L8A 4B2
Attn: Mr. James A. Tibbott, General Manager
Re: Competition #011-2015

The deadline for applications is 4:00 p.m., Thursday, January 25, 2016.
All applications are appreciated, but only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

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The Fort Erie Times

Routes Available



Crystal Beach
Fairfield, Glendale, Oshin - 43 papers

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Bown, Highland, Central - 54 papers

Crescent Park
Daytone, Philips - 50 papers
Lakeland, Lakewood - 45 papers

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NOTE TO CREDITORS AND CREDITORS:

ALL PERSONS having claims against the Estate of **GABRIEL BERTOLA** (deceased), late of the Town of Fort Erie in the Province of Ontario, who died on or about November 2, 2015, after which date the Estate will be administered with regard only to the debts of which the undersigned is or is not the creditor, and the undersigned will not be liable to any person or persons who may claim or claim to be the creditor of the Estate, are hereby notified that the undersigned is or is not the creditor of the Estate.

Dated this 14th day of January 2016.
JOHN T. TOL, Esq.,
Solicitor and
Notary Public,
P.O. Box 200
1500
Riverside
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Fort Erie, Ontario,
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Solicitor for the
Estate Trustee Brian
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Happy 70th Anniversary

Happy 16th Matt

Love Mom, Dad, Allison and Nick

Alvin & Ruth Mehlenbacher
January 1961 - 2016-2011

Love your Family

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SWORDS, Frederick Philip - Frederick Philip Swords passed away at the Greater Niagara General on Wednesday January 6th, 2016 at the age of 89. Beloved husband of the late Mrs. Loving Helen (McDonald) Swords. Loving father of Michael (Elaine), Joseph (Susan), Jerome and Mary Ann. Cherished grandfather of Gregory. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his daughter Julie Ann and sister Madeleine. Burial and cremation. **BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES**, 1605 Gerrard Ave. Fort Erie. Burial and cremation. The family received friends on Sunday January 10th from 4:00 pm. Funeral Mass was offered on Monday at 10:00 at Our Lady of the Rosary (231 McKinley Place, Buffalo, NY) followed by interment in Mount Calvary Cemetery. Flowers gratefully declined, donations to National Polio Virus of Canada would be appreciated.

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ANDER, Mary Ellen (Gignere) - It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our dear mother on December 11th, at Douglas Memorial Hospital, surrounded by her family. Left to mourn are her children: Mike (Mary), Dave (Cheryl), and grandchildren: Susan (Glen), Kaitlin, Steve (Marilyn), Sarah and Jason. She is predeceased by her husband Jack for some Wayne and Jim, and herel garden. Jerry Special aunt to Bill and Lisa Gignere, and Ben and Lori Anger. Thank you to Dr. Schell and the nurses at Douglas Memorial Hospital for taking such good care of our mother. Cremation has taken place, and a private family service will follow later. Donations to Palliative Care Fort Erie, or a charity of your choice would be appreciated. Arrangements entrusted to **NIAGARA FUNERAL ALTERNATIVES**, 925-884-0230.

McCREADE, Frances Teresa - Frances passed away surrounded by the love of her family on Wednesday January 13th, 2016 at the age of 82. Predeceased by her beloved husband John Henry. Loving mother of John (Doris) of Idaho, William and Helen McCreade of Fort Erie. Proud grandmother of Kaitlin, Alana, John and Kiana. Also survived by her brother David (Muriel), her brother-in-law Murray and sister-in-law May. **BENNETT FUNERAL SERVICES** 1025 Bennett Ave. Fort Erie entrusted with arrangements. The family received friends on Sunday January 17th from 2-4. It is so desired, donations to the Douglas Memorial Hospital Auxiliary would be appreciated by the family.



GLORIA LORRAINE MCNEILLY
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When someone you love dies, a memory
the memory becomes a lifetime.
Author Unknown





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January 6, 2015



Mason William Holmes
February 14, 2015



Brody Maclean Smith
March 6, 2015



*Caleb & Sarah & Joshua
Barajas*
March 4, 2015



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June 12, 2015



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July 16, 2015



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August 2, 2015



*Cameron Kenneth
McLaren Beteau*
August 27, 2015



Everett Michael Earl
September 19, 2015



Michael John Buhl
November 11, 2015



Jaekson Wendell Allen
December 23, 2015



*Mitchell and Emma
Greene*
December 30, 2015

